REMARKS

The Patent Examiner's time and cooperation in his telephonic interview with Applicant's attorney on April 19, 2005 is, of course, appreciated.

The dependency of claim 12 has been corrected by this amendment. In addition, a typographical error appearing on page 12, line 6 of the patent specification has also been corrected by this amendment.

Other than the amendments noted above, however, the claims in this application are resubmitted without amendment for reconsideration and allowance by the Patent Examiner. As discussed at the above-mentioned telephonic interview, the present invention is directed to a throttle position sensor which includes a circuit for determining the contact resistance between a throttle wiper element and the resistive strip. This contact resistance is represented by the element 36 in the patent drawing and is described in some detail on page 9, lines 9-21 of the patent specification, as well as other places in the patent specification.

The contact resistance 36, which represents the actual resistance between the contact of the wiper blade with the resistive strip, is ideally a constant resistance regardless of the position of the throttle wiper on the resistive strip. However, as described more fully on page 2, line 12 – page 3, line 10 of the patent specification, the actual contact resistance 36 between the wiper and the resistive strip may vary over the life of the throttle sensor. Such variations result in inaccurate readings of the throttle position by the throttle position sensor.

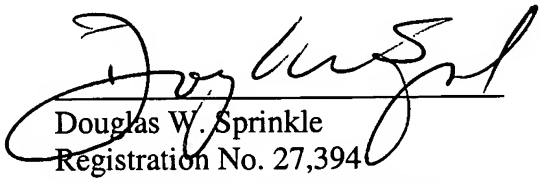
The present invention provides circuitry for monitoring the actual contact resistance 36 between the wiper blade and the resistive strip. By so monitoring the contact resistance, failure and/or inaccurate readings by the throttle position sensor 10 may be detected and either corrected through predictive algorithms or, in extreme cases, activate an alarm signal indicating failure of the throttle sensor 10.

Claim 1, the first independent claim in the instant application, clearly and positively defines "a circuit which determines a contact resistance between said wiper and said strip." Similarly, independent claim 23 clearly defines a method for determining the contact resistance while independent claim 28 also clearly defines a circuit for determining the resistance between the ends of the resistive strip. The prior art does not teach the claimed invention.

The Patent Examiner, however, has rejected all of the independent claims (except claim 27) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,743,132 to Hosoya et al. However, as discussed at the above-mentioned interview, the Hosoya et al. patent has absolutely no disclosure, teaching or vague suggestion of any circuitry at all to determine the contact resistance between the wiper and the resistive strip or the resistance of the resistive strip. That, of course, is the essence of Applicant's invention as it is defined in the claims and that clearly is not shown or suggested by the Hosoya et al. patent.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for formal allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Gina Vigiletti